

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to NOT support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will NOT increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because there is a question of being able to receive a signal. I have Directv because I cannot receive a signal from Echostar's Dish, from any satellite according to the Dish representative that came out to my place to find a signal. Nor can I receive a signal from Directv to get the programing from the 119 satellite. This was tested for availability and it was not.

The combined company will NOT be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me a substantial number of local TV channels via satellite in my market area. WHAG in Hagerstown is forbidden to be on the local into local because of WRC being owned and operated by NBC. Therefore, local into local is not a promise which can be fullfilled. Note too, that the local stations in Richmond, Va. will not be available because marketing boundries rather than broadcast signal reception is considered. Note that the cable company, not confined by the market-boundry rule, shows the Richmond, Virginia stations.

Broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now. ONLY IF A SIGNAL CAN BE RECEIVED.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Robert Feamster  
P.O. Box 1002  
Montross, VA 22520